# The Salt Prince

Once upon a time in a kingdom far away, there lived a king and his three sons. One day, eager to know who loved him the most, the king asked them, "How much do you love me?"

The eldest replied, "I love you more than gold!" The king was delighted.

The second son replied, "I love you more than diamonds!" The king was elated.

The youngest replied, "I love you more than salt!" The king was furious. More than salt?

How dare he compare his love with something of such low value? In his rage, he banished his youngest son from the kingdom. He left, taking with him all the salt in the land.

Soon afterwards, the king's appetite began to away, for the food no longer tasted good. Without nourishment, he became weak and ill, but nothing could tempt him to eat. He could no longer take pleasure in either his food or his life.

As he lay dying, his youngest son returned, bringing with him a dish of warm, salty broth. With the first delicious taste, the king felt his strength and his relish for life begin to return.

He realised at last that his youngest son loved him most of all, for when he had said he loved him more than salt, he meant he loved him more than that which sustains life, and more than the joy of life itself. And that is a great love indeed.